

English 201.004
Dr. Bill Bolin
Paper

Spring 2002

The object of this assignment is to give you the chance to work with a text that *you* select; this might be a nice respite from working with the texts that I have selected for you. Basically, you are to review a book of your choice. You must find several published reviews of the book and work those into your own review.

Here's the best way to set up this project:

After your introductory remarks, summarize the published reviews of the book. Be selective and arrange them in some logical order. Then critique those reviews. Then review the book yourself, using many of the same methods that the other reviewers may have used (pointing out strengths and weaknesses, discussing literary techniques, using examples from the text, relying on a minimum of summary, and so forth). In most cases, I will insist that you look at the actual reviews rather than at only abstracts of the reviews. There is no set minimum of reviews you will need; we'll talk about this after I see your proposal.

The paper should be four or five pages (typed, double-spaced) plus a bibliography and should follow MLA guidelines. The papers are due on April 19, but I need to see a one-paragraph proposal and a tentative bibliography (**all typed**) well in advance of that and certainly no later than March 29. Thus, I'll be in a better position to offer help regarding the focus of your review or the items in your bibliography.

Your grade will be determined by the quality of your research, the clarity of your writing, your adherence to MLA style, and inclusion of all these materials: typed paper, bibliography, photocopies of sources, and the one-paragraph proposal and tentative bibliography with my comments from earlier.

Since writing is a long **process**, you will have the opportunity to rewrite your paper for a slightly higher grade. After I've returned your graded material, you may choose to rewrite it according to my suggestions for up to five more points (a letter grade) and turn it in by May 8. The rewrite is not an opportunity to turn in a late paper for the first time.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will yield 0 points for this assignment but will not forfeit your chance to rewrite and earn up to five points. I define academic dishonesty as representing others' work as your own or as recycling an old paper without my permission and suggestions for extensive changes.